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8 February 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: OME 11-64: Likelihood of General War through 1957

REFERENCE: Memorandum for DCI from Executive Secretary, NSC,
19 January 1964, Subject, "Intelligence Estimate
of Soviet Intentions"

BACKGROUND

1. OME 11-64 was initiated in response to a request
from the NSC (reference memorandum) for an intelligence estimate
to support NSC 139/4, the NSC paper on "continental defense".

SUMMARY

2. There are no major unresolved issues in connection
with this paper. The following points may be raised, however:

a. General Porter may propose revisions (unknown
to us) of parts of the text. In any case he probably
will wish to insert a footnote to paragraph 5 similar
to one which he has appended to paragraph 2 of OME-97,
as follows:

"✓ The Deputy Director for Intelligence, The
Joint Staff, considers that the intelligence
available is insufficient to permit a judg-
ment, of Soviet capabilities or intentions,
sufficiently accurate to justify the conclu-
sion that:

"Deliberate initiation of general war by the
USSR is unlikely during this period."

b. Some sentiment may still exist for an even briefer
paper without any argument supporting the statements in
paragraph 5 concerning the likelihood of general war.
While there was no great difficulty in getting agreement
on the statements in paragraph 5, there was much reluctance

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on the part of all agencies to try to formulate a more detailed statement of the supporting arguments on which these general conclusions about the likelihood of war are based. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the present text have been inserted largely at the insistence of the Board and in the opinion of the Board, represent the bare minimum of argument necessary for this paper.

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Assistant Director
National Estimates

RSC:PAB:ls

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